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**Fwd: MegilLA #20/ SCROLL DOWN TO ARTICLE ABOUT MENDES & VAYIKRA!**

1 message

To: [redacted] Privacy [redacted] Privacy >  
[redacted] Privacy

Fri, Mar 16, 2018 at 4:25 PM

-----Original Message-----

From: Edmon J. Rodman <[redacted]>

To: barbaramendes <[redacted]>

Sent: Fri, Mar 16, 2018 3:58 pm

Subject: MegilLA #20

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Scroll #20

March 16, 2018

# MegilLA

A New Scroll of LA Jewish News

**Folks,**

Picking lettuce is a lot like picking what to cover for MegilLA. You want fresh and you want flavor, and you don't want bitter, unless, of course, it's Passover. And, you don't want so much that it kills the appetite for what's to come after. In this issue, I am hoping to have picked just the right amount of news, features and art. It's all



homegrown, with no artless ingredients, or fillers, and doesn't require a lot of dressing to enhance the taste. Enjoy. Keep resending, and finding readers, who like yourselves, like to dig in. As always, let me know that you think.

Edmon J. Rodman  
Writer & Editor

Dear Editor,

Re: MegilLA #19 "If the Jewish Chaplaincy program closes, who will visits Jews in Jail."

It's unimaginable that what I am estimating to be at a minimum of 220 Jewish inmates in jail daily in Los Angeles will not have the chaplaincy that the majority religions in our community provide to their own community members. As a volunteer who, facilitated by Rabbi Avivah Erlick, spoke at the L.A. Men's Central Jail to Jewish prisoners on a Jewish topic, I witnessed a gathering of 30 Jews out of their cells for a meaningful study session and discussion. During that one weekly opportunity for these Jews with many dire needs, cut off from their families and communities, I saw the inmates receive support services, pastoral care and meaning words of encouragement.

I can't fathom how a Jewish Federation through its funding body, Caring for Jews in Need, can abandon a chaplaincy program that serves the one-in-two thousand Jews in our community who are incarcerated, for the lack of a compassionate program which costs only \$42,000. We can't turn our organizational backs on what has been a core historical business of a Jewish community.

Pini Herman  
Los Angeles

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Pictured Left: Jean Greenstein, German ID, 1944; Pictured Right: Greenstein in Israel 1947, Photos: Courtesy of the Greenstein Family

## During the Holocaust, he saved Jewish lives

Jean Greenstein, a Jewish Angeleno from Czechoslovakia, who during WWII infiltrated the German Army, passed away in Tarzana on February 24. A witness to the horrors of the Holocaust and an agent against it, he also fought in Israel's War for Independence, and saw the re-birth of a Jewish nation.

During World War II, while undercover in German uniform, in Budapest, he "traveled throughout the area distributing schutzpass to Jews," said his son Paul Greenstein.

The shutzpass, a special Swedish passport invented and distributed by Swedish diplomat [Raoul Wallenberg](#) is credited overall with saving 20,000 Jewish lives.

Jean Greenstein, (Egon Grřnstein) was born on July 9, 1924, in Velky Sevlus, Czechoslovakia, to Peter and Sari Grřnstein, the third of six children. In April 1944, Jean was interned with his family in the Velky Sevlus ghetto. In June of that year, he and three others escaped and hid in a wine cellar. The following day, the Jews in Sevlus, including Jean's entire extended family, were transported to Auschwitz.

By late August, the group was forced to emerge from the cellar. They were captured and put on a passenger train headed for Auschwitz. The train was diverted to Budapest, where, after escaping from Nazi custody, Jean located and joined the underground resistance.

Under the auspices of the Zionist resistance that was working out of the main synagogue in Budapest, and taking advantage of his fluency in German, Jean joined the German Army around September of 1944. His duties as a lieutenant in the 2nd SS volunteer division was to arrest deserters, said his son. However, his undercover task was to intercept groups of Jews being marched “to the Danube to be shot,” said Greenstein.

In a motorcycle with sidecar “He travelled with another guy dressed up as an Hungarian Arrow Cross member,” explained Greenstein, speaking of the Hungarian national socialist party who were Nazi supporters.

Confronting German and Hungarian soldiers with Jewish prisoners, Jean would tell them “all these people are under arrest for stealing typewriters,” and would produce a warrant for their arrest, said Greenstein. “Most of the time, the Germans would just say ‘take them.’ As an SS officer, nobody wanted to mess with him.”

Jewish prisoners were then escorted to the Glass House, a former glass factory under the protection of the Swiss Embassy, where, due to the heroic work of several non-Jewish men including Swiss Vice Consul Carl Lutz, Spanish Ambassador Angel San Bris, acting Italian Ambassador Giorgio Perlasca, and Swedish Ambassador Raoul Wallenberg, more than 8,000 Jews were given refuge and provided with a Schutzpass for safe passage out of Hungary. Jean never knew how many Jews he saved or helped save, but by his estimate, hundreds, and probably thousands.

After liberation, Jean made his way back to Velky Sevlus, where he found his home had been vandalized and his family had perished. Only his older sister Sidi had survived.

Jean eventually sailed to Palestine on an Aliyah Bet ship, ending up in Tel Aviv, where he studied dentistry. In late 1947, he was called up to the Haganah, and fought with the elite Palmach unit in the Jerusalem battles. During the war for Israel Independence he also served in the Palyam, the navy, as second in command for the Port of Haifa.

“He assisted in smuggling arms for Italy. They were all Czech, like Bren guns,” said Greenstein. Because of his father’s fluency with the language, he

also helped translate the Czech manual for the Messerschmitts, the German fighter aircraft that the Czechs sold to the Israelis.

Jean immigrated to New York in late 1949, working as a dental technician he was able to become certified in the field. In August 1951, Jean met Ruth Blumer at Brighton Beach. They married on June 1, 1952. They had three children, Paul, Lawrence and Sharon.

In 1961, the family moved to Los Angeles, where Jean opened Cerama-Dent Studios, a dental laboratory, specializing in cosmetic dentistry. He sold it in 1972, and opened Creative Dental Ceramics. During his career in cosmetic dentistry, Jean invented cosmetic dental techniques and patented a number of innovative dental instruments. He retired in 1988.

Growing up, Paul and his siblings knew nothing about their father's experience during WWII, yet, there were clues to his earlier life. "We would be in a Hungarian restaurant," said Greenstein, "and a guy would run up to him and say 'Itcu, Itcu,' calling him by his nickname, because it was somebody he saved, or somebody he knew."



## **When President Trump came to town**



Photos: Pini Herman

On Tuesday, March 13, a group of between 400-500 gathered in Beverly Hills Garden Park to protest President Trump and his policies. According to Pini Herman, who was present, the Jewish community was well-represented.



**You know Passover is coming when...**





### **...They put out the shmura matzah at Costco**

“Shmura,” in Hebrew means guarded, and the wheat in shmura matzah, from the time of its harvest until it is taken to the mill to be ground into flour, is guarded against coming into contact with water which could cause it to leaven. The resulting price for all this extra watchfulness, plus the matzah’s handmade artisanship results in prices ranging locally most often from around \$15-40 a pound. Yet many feel that their seder would be ritually incomplete without it. Though the taste is not a strong point, the irregular, burned-around-the-edge, roundish pieces do help us to imagine the seder’s narrative of a quick departure from Egypt and a bread baked in haste.



## **Gathering to help the stranger**

In response to a year when there have been attacks on the U.S. refugee program, a coalition of Southern California Jewish congregations and organizations have come together with HIAS to hold a community-wide Jews for Refugees Assembly on Thursday, March 22, at Temple Beth Am.

The free evening event, which originated with HIAS, the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, an organization founded in 1881 to assist Jews fleeing pogroms in Russia and Eastern Europe, plans, says the organization's website to "raise a powerful, moral voice to ensure that refugees can find safety and welcome in the United States."

The event, will include a Syrian vegan dinner prepared by a Syrian refugee family, and have information tables on refugees and immigration issues, and voter registration, as well as speakers from Save the Syrian Children, the Democratic Republic of Congo, HIAS, and others, will be from 6-9 p.m.

"Jews in America, and most Jews in general, have had a history of being refugees and should be helping refugees," said one the event's co-organizers, Tyson Roberts, who is also chair of Temple Beth Am's Refugee Task Force. "Jews have a special calling to help refugees, given our history, going back to Egypt and Israel in the Bible," added Roberts, a USC lecturer in political science and international relations.

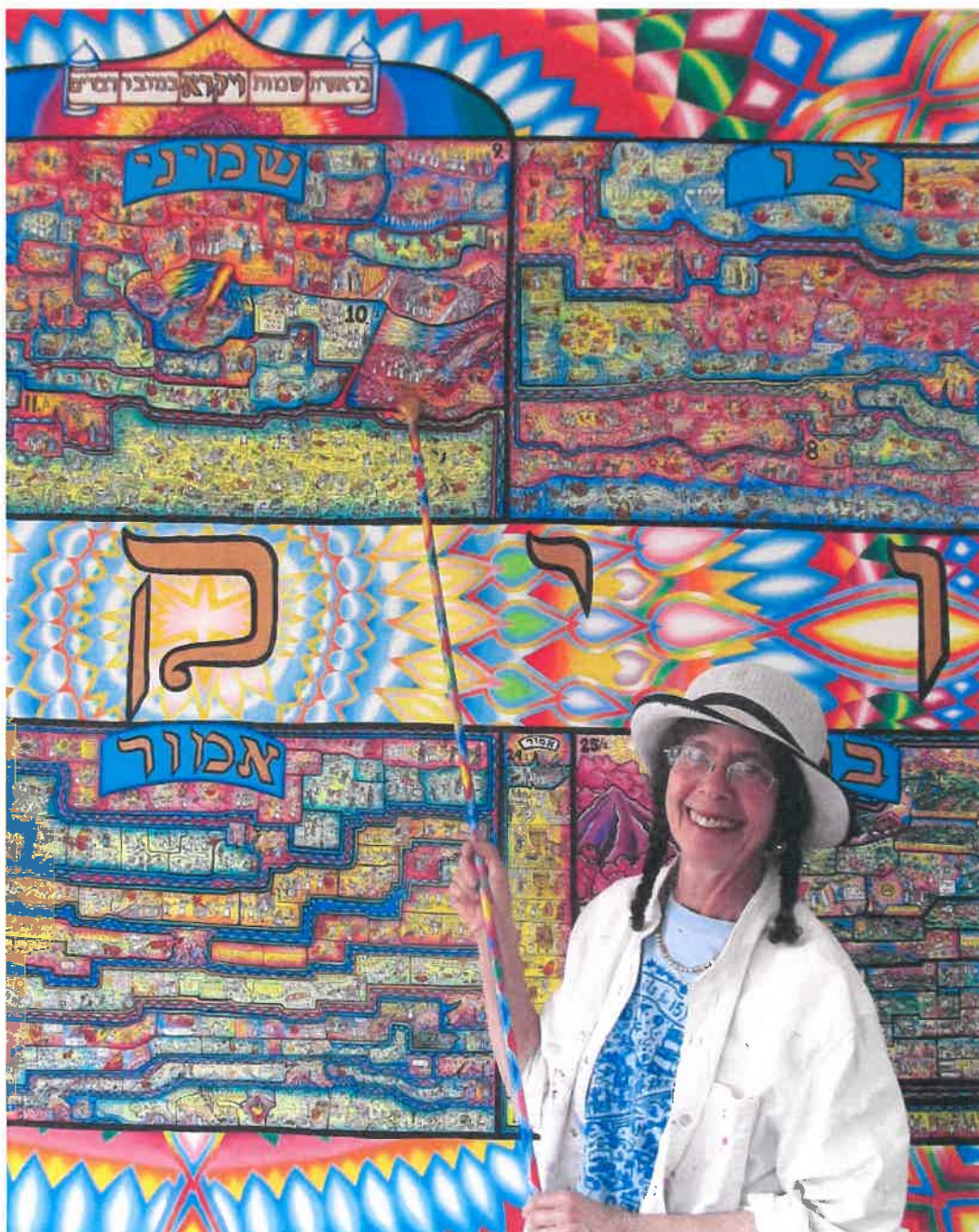
Roberts, who earlier in his life served in the Peace Corps for two and a half



years, feels that the event is an opportunity to help refugees from the Middle East and Africa. Refugees “should be able to have an escape from war and oppression, and the United States should be doing our share in receiving these people,” he said.

“Throughout our history, we have been strangers in a strange land. We know what it’s like to be the stranger. We have a special obligation to help,” he said. “With just a little bit of effort, you can make such a big difference.”

Los Angeles Jews for Refugees Assembly, Click [here](#) to register.



## Torah on the Streets of LA

This week brings us to Vayikra, “He called,” the first portion of Leviticus, the third book of the Torah. A good part of the book covers the ancient rules and procedures required for making animal offerings when an individual or even community needs to atone for an offense. Animal sacrifice may not be on reading list for today’s animal rights activists, vegans, and generally anyone who does not take readily to the idea of slaughtering animals to bring us closer to God. Yet, many of us continue to offer up plenty to correct wrongs committed by ourselves or our society including time, money, and sleep, and think that the sacrifice is worth it. When we see that our offering may have been of use, like our ancestors, we feel pleased, even satisfied. To get the big picture of what Vayikra is all about, in 2009, Los Angeles artist, Barbara Mendes, an Orthodox Jew, created “Vayikra,” a 6-by-16-foot mural. Depicting the book’s 859 verses in a bright, almost animated vision, her offering is a flowing, panoramic view of the text using small but detailed pictures accompanied by Hebrew text. Acting as a visual analog of Leviticus, the work draws you into the world of burnt offerings, as well as the laws of keeping kosher that are found in Leviticus. Shown are even the “winged swarming things,” the kind of locust that is kosher to eat. The “Vayikra” mural is available for viewing at the [Ivan Gallery 2709 S. Robertson Blvd., Los Angeles, 90034](#). Hours are Tuesday-Thursday, and Sunday 12-5. Call ahead at 323-533-6021.







## Guide for the Jewplexed

Finding family is the real ‘Road Show’

Since my existence had already given me a taste of Sephardic life and history—I am an Ashkenazi Jew who married into a family that has strong ties to the Sephardic community of Rhodes—I thought I knew what to expect when we attended the Sephardic Road Show at UCLA last weekend. People would bring a collection of artifacts, photos, maps and books, get them evaluated, then go their separate ways; end of story. Only, it was just the beginning.

Getting ready to attend, my wife, Brenda Hasson Rodman and I packed up two items to take for evaluation: a wedding photo of her paternal grandparents Gracia, or Grace and Joseph Hasson, taken on the Island of Rhodes in 1922, and a prayer book that was given to me after her grandmother died in 2008.

Arriving at the UCLA Research Library, a place where both of us had spent many hours in our youth diligently trying to solve whatever riddle a professor had given us, we came prepared to find the answers to our own riddles.

The prayer book held a couple of mysteries. Though not having a word in English, I still knew from my familiarity with Hebrew prayers that it

contained services for morning, noon and night. But it seemed to have a lot of prayers added for Fast Days. The preface, set in a vaguely familiar, yet, to me, unfathomable script, also was a puzzle. The book, had a handwritten inscription that I could not read, and adding another question was the title page which said that the book was published in Austria in 1921, not the home to a large Sephardic population.

As for the photo, Brenda was hoping to make any connection that she could.

Entering the room, we were directed to a table where a couple of experts were chatting with people who had brought in objects as well as memories. Soon, a young graduate student in Modern Sephardic History named Max Daniel, who was one of the organizers of the event, introduced himself, and asked how he could help.

I showed him the title page of the prayer book, and solving one riddle, he quickly pointed out that it contained services according to the customs of the Sephardim for the four fasts: the Tenth of Tevet, the Fast of Esther, the Seventeenth of Tammuz, and Tisha B'Av.

He also explained that since the book was most likely printed in Austria for distribution elsewhere, by printing it in Europe, the publisher could avoid official censorship in a region like the Ottoman Empire.

Next, Max, who had learned Hebrew growing up in Chicago, and Spanish at UCLA, deciphered the signature. Guessing that the book had belonged to Brenda's Rhodesli (of Rhodes) grandfather, I knew that his name was Joseph Hasson. But as I read the handwritten cursive script, though the letters resembled Hebrew I had trouble decoding them. Also, what must have been the surname, Hasson, began with the Hebrew letter "Chet," in Hebrew a hard sound, not the softer H-sound, represented by the "Hebrew letter "Hey," that you hear in the English pronunciation of the name.

"It's written in a type of handwriting used by Sephardic Jews called Solitreo," said Max, who had come across different spellings of the name.

Afterwards, still curious about the Hebrew spelling, I called a distant relative of Brenda's, Aron Hasson, who has created an amazingly researched [website](#) about the Sephardic community of Rhodes. On the site, Aron had posted the photos of hundreds of headstones from the Rhodes Jewish cemetery, and I could see that though some Hasson's spelled their name with a "Hey," the majority used a "Chet."

After the name "Joseph Hasson," there was a third word, which Max thought



could be a name. He read it as “Ya’akov” and asked, if perhaps “Jacob,” was Joseph’s father’s name.

Afterwards, a call to Brenda’s uncle, Lou Hasson, one of Joseph’s sons, confirmed that yes, Ya’akov, Jacob, was his grandfather’s name.

Now that he had demystified the title page, the introduction was easy. It was written in Ladino, and gave advice on how to prepare for a fast, said Max, who leads a weekly Ladino reading group at UCLA. The reason why the type face had looked familiar is that it was set in what is called Rashi script, he explained, a style that I had encountered in the Rashi Torah commentary class I had taken while in Hebrew High School.

While Max was explaining, several people had walked up to the table where we were sitting and looked at the wedding photo. “Is that your family?” one woman asked. As Brenda explained, the two women got to talking, and as it turned out, discovered the real find, for us, of the Sephardic Road Show. Not only did the woman know Brenda’s grandmother, and her Uncle Lou and Aunt Rita, but demonstrating how on that day many roads led back to a far-away Greek island, was most likely a distant relative as well.



## **Deserving your Attention**



Make some space on your Seder table. This Passover, Jewish World Watch, a Los Angeles organization which works to end genocide and mass atrocities worldwide, suggests creating a second Seder plate for your table, to help you identify with the tragic realities being experienced by so many people around the world. The images for the Seder plate are [downloadable](#), and in the tradition of the Seder come with questions and answers.

Past Scrolls

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Corrections

In last week's issue, Scroll #19, the article about a Jewish chaplaincy program incorrectly stated that the program had been funded for "a total of 50 hours per week." It was funded for a total of 50 hours per month.

Also in Scroll #19, Guide for the Jewplexed had Edmon Rodman's mother, Pearl Rodman, attending DeWitt Clinton High School in the South Bronx. It was his father, Murray Rodman, who attended there.

## Edmon J. Rodman

has written for the Jewish Telegraphic Agency (JTA), the Jerusalem Post, The Forward, Virtual Jerusalem, the Jewish Journal of Greater Los Angeles, and earlier in his career, the Los Angeles Times. He has won four American Jewish Press Association Simon Rockower Awards for excellence in Jewish journalism. He was also the editor and art director for the Los Angeles Jewish Population Survey '97. He once built an entire cardboard shtetl at UCLA. To be added to our mailing list, removed from it, or to make a comment: [edmojace@gmail.com](mailto:edmojace@gmail.com)

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Joseph Galloway <joseph.galloway@lacity.org>

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## LACI Portfolio Company AVM To Supply Israeli Transit & Tourism Firm With 58 Electric Buses

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Michael Swords <mike@lincubator.org>  
To: Michael Swords <mike@lincubator.org>  
Bcc: joseph.galloway@lacity.org

Mon, May 7, 2018 at 12:43 PM

Friends,  
LACI would like to share some good news with you about one of our Portfolio Companies, Advanced Vehicle Manufacturing (AVM).

### AVM To Supply Afifi Group (Israeli Transit & Tourism Firm) With 58 Electric Buses

<https://cleantechnica.com/2018/05/04/avm-to-supply-afifi-group-israeli-transit-tourism-firm-with-58-electric-buses/>

The US-based commercial electric bus supplier Advanced Vehicle Manufacturing (AVM) has secured a memorandum of understanding for the sale of 58 commercial electric vehicles with the Israel-based transportation and tourism firm Afifi Group.

To be more specific here, AVM signed the memorandum of understanding with the commercial transportation and logistics arm of Afifi Group, UBSI.

Notably, the deal also involves plans for the purchase of a network of AVM's 350 kW CCS 2.0 high-power plug-in electric vehicle chargers — which reportedly provide charge times of fewer than 10 minutes. Also involved in the deal will be the provision of a centralized fleet management system, route optimization software via AI, and Bluetooth beacon hardware.

As it stands, the memorandum of understanding also calls for first deliveries to begin in Quarter 1 2019.

"We found AVM's integrated technologies and 10-minute charging to be the strongest commercial transportation solution for us," **commented** Tawfiq Afifi, head of Trade and Services for Afifi Group.

The head of AVM investor Havenrock, Omar N Barakat (who helped secure the deal), commented as well: "With over 80 years of experience in the region, we feel Afifi Group is uniquely positioned to make 100% clean energy transportation a reality in the region. We are also in late-stage discussions with UBSI to become AVM's official representatives and further our reach into the Israeli and Palestinian bus market."

What's most notable about this news is that Afifi Group represents the largest privately held transportation, tourism, and real estate group in "Israel and the Palestinian Territories" (that's the way that the press release worded it, so I'm just sticking it in quotes there for readers to parse as they choose). That being the case, the plans represent a particularly notable acquisition. How many more EVs might it buy in the next year or two? How long until it fully transitions its fleets to electricity?

While AVM is headquartered in California, it has a key partnership with Yinlong, which is a giant Chinese bus company. Of course, China (and Yinlong) know a lot about electric buses. Nearly 300,000 electric buses were sold in China from 2015 through 2017.

Year	China Electric Bus Sales
2011	1136
2012	1904
2013	1672
2014	12,760
2015	94,260
2016	115,700
2017	89,546
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>316,978</b>

--  
**Michael Swords**  
VP Government Affairs and International Relations

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Joseph Galloway <joseph.galloway@lacity.org>

## Updates

5 messages

Joseph Galloway <joseph.galloway@lacity.org>

Tue, Nov 13, 2018 at 4:35 PM

To: Stacy Shure <[REDACTED]> Privacy

Hi Stacy,

I hope you are well. I'm sorry I cannot return your call right now as I'm on the line with a constituent (we're short staffed).

Here are some updates:

- LADOT has received the letter to remove the "No Parking" signs on the 3000 block of Midvale Ave. We are still waiting on a day/time when the signs will be removed.
- LADOT has received the request from the City Council to install "No Oversized Vehicle" restriction signs on Sepulveda Blvd. between National Blvd. and Clover Ave. We are still waiting for the signs to be fabricated and installed.
- The channel located at 11129 Clover Ave. has been cleared thanks to the Bureau of Sanitation. The Bureau will need to be notified if the channel needs to be cleared again.
- Parking Enforcement is asking residents to call the Abandoned Vehicle Hotline to report any RV's that reside on streets where the signs are located. The number is 1(800) 222-6366.
- Councilmember Koretz introduced a resolution to condemn the UCLA Chancellor for the National Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) and their scheduled conference for November 16-18 at the school which will promote anti-Semitism; recent news accounts SJP members have posted violent anti-Semitic rhetoric on social media, ranging from calling for the annihilation of the Jewish people. The resolution is attached.

Please let me know if you have any questions.



**Joseph Galloway**  
Westside Deputy District Director  
Councilmember Paul Koretz, Fifth District  
6380 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 800  
Los Angeles, California 90048  
T: (323) 866-1828 | F: (323) 852-1129



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1601K

Stacy Shure <[REDACTED]>  
To: Joseph Galloway <joseph.galloway@lacity.org>

Tue, Nov 13, 2018 at 6:15 PM

Thank you for the updates, Joseph.

I just wanted to confirm that the signs ARE coming down, I'm getting questions from the residents.

Also for the vehicle signage on Sepulveda, it's Between National Blvd. and QUEENSLAND, not Clover. Correct?

I wanted to also let you know - where the channel is located behind the stores, where it flows out to the street, was recently re-cemented and fixed because it was crumbling and cracked. It appears that someone has driven over the new cement and once again broken the sidewalk area and crumbled/cracked the cement adjacent to the street. You might want to have the appropriate department notified because it may be blocking the outflow from the channel.

Thanks!

Stacy

[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]

<18-0002-S128\_reso\_11-06-2018.pdf>

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**Joseph Galloway** <joseph.galloway@lacity.org>

Wed, Nov 14, 2018 at 2:06 PM

To: Stacy Shure <[REDACTED]>

Hey Stacy,

Yes, the signs are coming down. Mo is finalizing the report and will send the work orders hopefully by the end of the week. You are also correct and thank you for correcting me. The signs do reach to Queensland.

We will report the channel to BSS for repairs.

Thank you!

[Quoted text hidden]

---

**Stacy Shure** <[REDACTED]>

Wed, Nov 14, 2018 at 2:08 PM

To: Joseph Galloway <joseph.galloway@lacity.org>

You rock! Thank you so much!

So why don't you join us for the MVCC meeting sometime? Would love to have CD5 represented (since we say nice things about you during the meeting).

Stacy

[Quoted text hidden]

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**Joseph Galloway** <joseph.galloway@lacity.org>

Wed, Nov 14, 2018 at 2:19 PM

To: Stacy Shure <[REDACTED]>

I saw Rob today at WRAC and it reminded me of the board. I have to come by so I'll be joining next month.

[Quoted text hidden]

# Redaction Log

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